

1 14. (Amended) A network computer system, comprising:
2 a first computer node having a data file in computer-readable memory; and
3 a second computer node that issues to the first computer node a first message re-
4 questing grant of a set of tokens required to carry out a modification of at least one char-
5 acteristic of said file;
6 the first computer node issuing a second message to the second computer node
7 after receipt of the first message, the second message granting the set of tokens to the first
8 process if the set of tokens is available for grant to the second process.

1 15. (Amended) A system according to claim 14, wherein:
2 the first computer node is a server node, and the second computer node is a non-
3 server node.

1 16. (Amended) A system according to claim 14, wherein:
2 the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to carry out the modification of the
3 at least one characteristic of the file.

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1 17. (Amended) A system according to claim 14, wherein:
2 if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for the grant because the at
3 least one token is currently granted, the first computer node waits to issue the first mes-
4 sage until after the first computer node receives a third message from a third computer
5 node indicating relinquishment of current grant of the at least one token.

1 18. (Amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein:
2 the at least one token comprises a plurality of tokens.

1 19. (Amended) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable program
2 instructions, the instructions comprising:

3 first instructions which when executed permit a data file to be maintained in com-
4 puter storage memory;

5 second instructions which when executed generate a first message requesting
6 grant of a plurality of tokens required to modify at least one characteristic of said file; and

7 third instructions which when executed generate a second message, in response to
8 said first message, that grants said tokens if said tokens are available for grant to said
9 second process.

1 20. (Amended) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable program
2 instructions, the instructions comprising:

3 first instructions which when executed generate a first message that grants a set of
4 tokens, if the set of tokens is available for grant, to a requester of the set of tokens, the set
5 of tokens being required to permit the requester to be able to modify at least one charac-
6 teristic of a file stored in computer storage memory.

1 21. (Amended) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable program
2 instructions, the instructions comprising:

3 first instructions that when executed generate a request for grant of a set of tokens
4 required to enable modification by an issuer of the request of at least one characteristic of
5 a file residing in storage memory.

1 22. (Amended) Computer-readable memory according to Claim 19, further compris-
2 ing:

3 further instructions which when executed causes, if any of said tokens are un-
4 available for grant as a result of current grant of said tokens, generation of a third mes-
5 sage revoking the current grant of said tokens.

1 23. (Amended) A computer-readable memory according to claim 22, wherein:

2 said further instructions, in response to said third message, generate a fourth mes-
3 sage making said tokens available for grant.

- 1 24. (Amended) Computer-readable memory according to claim 20, further compris-
2 ing:
3 further instructions which when executed cause, if at least one token in the set of
4 tokens is unavailable for grant because the at least one token is currently granted, genera-
5 tion of a second message that revokes previous grant of the at least one token prior to
6 generating the first message.
- 1 25. (Amended) Computer-readable memory according to claim 20, wherein:
2 the first message is generated in response to a request for the grant of the set of
3 tokens generated, the request specifying all tokens required to be able to modify the at
4 least one characteristic of the file.
- A 1 26. (Amended) Computer-readable memory according to claim 21, wherein:
2 the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to be able to modify the at least
3 one characteristic of the file.
- 1 27. (Amended) A computerized data file system, comprising:
2 means for maintaining a data file in computer-readable memory; and
3 means for generating a first message requesting grant of a plurality of tokens re-
4 quired to modify at least one characteristic of said file;
5 means for generating a second message, in response to said first message, that
6 grants said tokens if said tokens are available for grant.
- 1 28. (Amended) A system according to claim 27, further comprising:
2 means for generating, if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of
3 current grant of said tokens, a third message revoking the current grant of said tokens.
- 1 29. (Amended) A system according to claim 28, further comprising:

2 means for generating, in response to said third message, a fourth message making
3 said tokens available for grant.

1 30. (Amended) A computerized method for coherently maintaining and modifying a
2 data file, comprising:
3 maintaining a data file in computer-readable memory;
4 generating a first message requesting grant of a plurality of tokens required to
5 modify at least one characteristic of said file; and
6 generating a second message, in response to said first message, that grants said
7 tokens if said tokens are available for grant.

1 31. (Amended) A method according to claim 30, further comprising:
2 if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of current grant of said
3 tokens to at least one other process, generating a third message revoking the grant of said
4 tokens.

1 32. (Amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein:
2 in response to said third message, a fourth message making said tokens available
3 for grant is generated.

1 33. (Amended) A computerized method for use in maintaining coherency of a data
2 file, comprising:
3 generating a first message that grants a set of tokens, if the set of tokens is avail-
4 able for grant, to a requester of the grant of the set of tokens, the set of tokens being re-
5 quired for requester to be able to modify at least one characteristic of the file.

1 34. (Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein:
2 if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for grant because the at
3 least one token has been currently granted, the method also comprises a second message
4 that revokes current grant of the at least one token prior to generating the first message.

1 35. (Amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein:
2 the first message is generated in response to a request for the grant of the set of
3 tokens generated by the requester, the request specifying all tokens required for the re-
4 quester to be able to modify the at least one characteristic of the file.

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1 36. (Amended) A computerized method for use in maintaining coherency of a data
2 file, comprising:
3 generating a request for grant of a set of tokens required to enable modification of
4 at least one characteristic of the file.

37. (Amended) A method according to claim 36, wherein:
the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to be able to modify the at least
one characteristic of the file.
